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KIEV-ORCHESTRATED SUICIDE BOMBING THWARTED IN RUSSIA – FSB

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Kiev-backed suicide bomb plot thwarted in Russia – FSB

A Ukrainian agent scammed a Crimean resident into targeting the agency's HQ in a terrorist attack, officials have said



© FSB of Russia

A Ukrainian terrorist plot involving an unwitting suicide bomber has been thwarted in the Russian port city of Sevastopol, the Federal Security Service (FSB) has said.

The agency said a Ukrainian intelligence handler persuaded a local resident to carry a portable speaker to the FSB's regional headquarters, telling him it would be used for surveillance as part of an internal investigation. Officials

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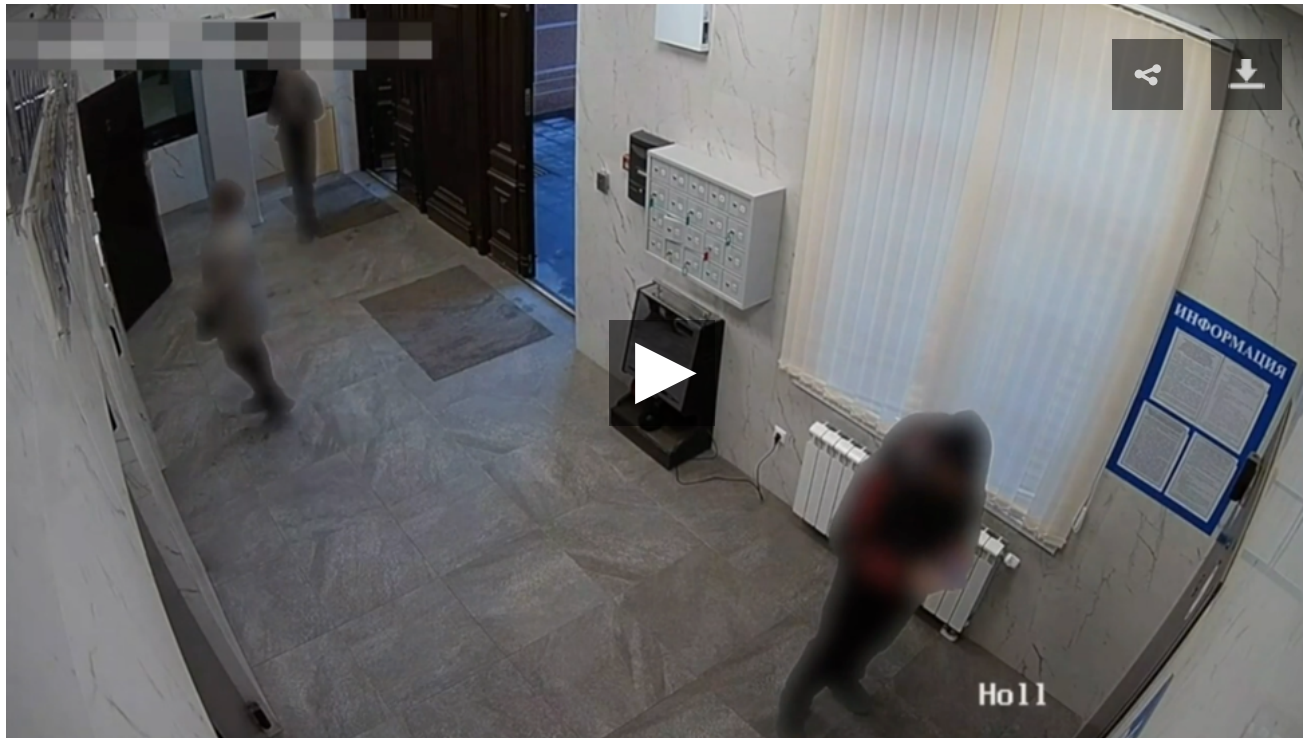
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said the device actually concealed an improvised explosive meant to detonate at the site. Security guards intercepted the device and found the explosives before they could be triggered.

Officials released a record of what they said were instructions given by the Ukrainian handler, who claimed the unwitting accomplice would be offered a job at the FSB, should he prove capable in the fake counter-espionage operation. The job was expected to take a couple of minutes and supposedly necessitated that the suspect scan mobile phones in the HQ security checkpoint to detect traitors.



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Russian investigators claim they have identified the Ukrainian agent who orchestrated the plot. The same person was allegedly behind a similar attempt to bomb the security checkpoint of the FSB HQ in Simferopol, which was [reported](#) by the agency last August. In

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that case, a 54-year-old woman from Volgograd Region was tricked into delivering a bomb to the Crimean city disguised as a Christian icon.

The FSB named the suspected mastermind as Ivan Krinov, a lieutenant in the Ukrainian military's Special Operations Forces, currently based in Odessa with his family. The statement said Russia will seek to charge him with terrorism and have him put on an international wanted list.

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The security service urged Russian citizens to be cautious about Ukrainian scams aimed at recruiting saboteurs. By acting to ensure the deaths of perpetrators, Kiev *“eliminates unwanted witnesses and can avoid paying them any reward,”* the statement stressed. Moscow officials say Kiev is increasingly resorting to terrorist attacks inside Russia because the Ukrainian military is unable to secure victory on the battlefield.

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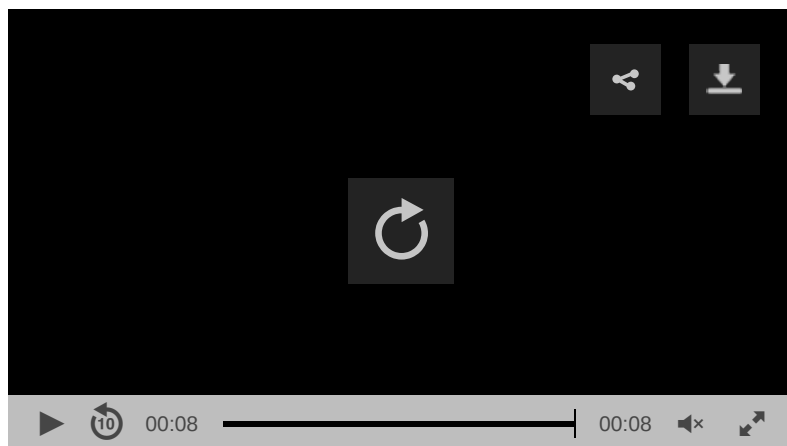


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Ukrainian drone strike kills woman and child near Mariupol – authorities

Russia has accused Ukraine of targeting civilians amid failures on the battlefield



© Vesti

Two civilians, including a young child, have been killed in a Ukrainian drone strike on a settlement near the city of Mariupol, the head of Russia's Donetsk People's Republic (DPR), Denis Pushilin, announced on Sunday.

He said the attack took place in the village of Sartana, located on the outskirts of Mariupol, which was liberated from Ukrainian troops after a fierce battle in 2022.

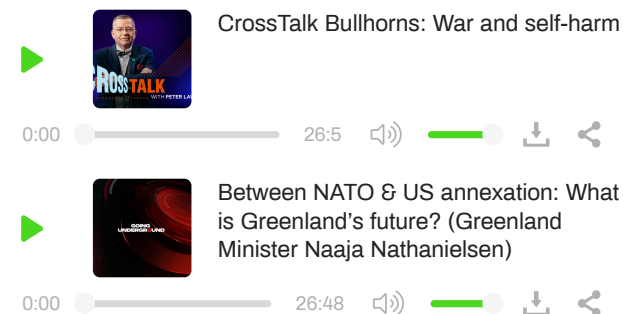
"A woman born in 1991 and a boy born in 2020 were killed in the attack by Ukrainian strike drones," Pushilin wrote on Telegram, expressing condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims.

He added that another seven-year-old boy was injured and three residential buildings were destroyed in the strike.

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Russia has accused Ukraine of increasingly targeting civilians in its attacks. As many as 45 people, including three minors, were killed in Ukrainian strikes in Russia over the holiday season from January 1 to 11, according to Moscow.

Moscow says Kiev is attacking civilians because it cannot halt Russian advances on the battlefield. Ukrainian officials claim that inflicting sufficient economic damage will force Russia to abandon its objectives in the four-year conflict.

In response, the Russian military has targeted Ukrainian energy infrastructure that it says supports kamikaze drone production for long-range strikes.

Several major Ukrainian cities, including the capital, Kiev, are currently facing severe power shortages as grid deterioration coincides with a cold snap. Kiev Mayor Vitaly Klitschko has urged residents to evacuate if possible.

The DPR, along with the neighboring Lugansk People's Republic (LPR), seceded from Ukraine following a Western-backed coup in Kiev in 2014. The two territories, along with the regions of Zaporozhye and Kherson, joined Russia following referendums in September 2022.

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Timeline set for upcoming Russia-Ukraine-US talks – Zelensky

The next round of Washington-mediated peace negotiations between Moscow and Kiev are slated for next week in Abu Dhabi, the Ukrainian leader has said



Vladimir Zelensky © Kevin Dietsch / Getty Images

The next round of US-mediated Moscow–Kiev talks is scheduled to take place on February 4 and 5 in Abu Dhabi, rather than this Sunday as previously planned, Ukraine’s Vladimir Zelensky has announced in a post on his Telegram channel. The Kremlin has yet to comment on any change of schedule.

The initial round, held on January 23-24, marked the first trilateral format since the Russia-Ukraine

conflict escalated in February 2022 and was described by all sides as *“very constructive.”* The issue of territorial concessions, however, remained the main sticking point, as Ukraine refused to recognize Russia’s new borders.

The New York Times reported on Sunday that the reason for the rescheduling of the talks remains unclear, noting that it followed a *“surprise”* meeting over the weekend between Russian and US negotiators in Florida.

Neither side disclosed details of the discussions. However, US envoy Steve Witkoff later wrote on social media: *“We are encouraged by this meeting that Russia is working toward securing peace in Ukraine.”* Russian President Vladimir Putin’s envoy Kirill Dmitriev also called the meeting *“constructive.”*

While the upcoming Abu Dhabi talks have been described as trilateral, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said earlier that both envoys Witkoff and Jared Kushner – Washington’s main negotiators in the Ukraine peace process – would not attend the next round of talks, though *“there might be a US presence.”*

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Zelensky added in his Sunday post that *“Ukraine is ready”* for substantive discussions and is interested in achieving an outcome that would bring the conflict closer to an end.

Russia normally declines to publicly comment about details of sensitive negotiations, arguing that Ukraine-style *“megaphone diplomacy”* is counterproductive. Moscow has maintained that it would prefer to achieve its goals diplomatically but is prepared to do so militarily if talks fail.

Moscow insists any settlement must include Ukraine’s withdrawal from the Donbass regions of Donetsk and Lugansk that voted to join Russia in 2022 referendums and recognition of the country’s new borders, including Crimea. Kiev has rejected these demands and insisted on regaining the territories, despite continuously losing ground to Russian forces.